[Translation]

Seats for OBCs in Parliament and Assemblies

3568. SHRI RAJESH RAJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating on providing reservation to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Parliament and Assembly seats;

(b) whether the Government propose to bring in some changes in the reservation policy for the Parliament and Assambly seats on the basis of population of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) to (d). No, Sir.

Articles 330 and 332 of the Constitution provide, *inter-alia* that until the figures for the first census taken after the year 2000 are published, the proportion of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People and Legislative Assemblies shall correspond to their proportion in the population as per the 1971 Census.

[English]

Para Military Forces on Security Duties

3569. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the para military forces have been over stretched over the years while performing internal security duties and are being deployed without any respites;

(b) if so, whether the Government have planned or proposed to plan any scheme to give the priority to the improvement of service conditions in the paramilitary forces especially to make them attractive to the younger generation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). Due to over all internal security scenario, Parliamentary Elections and Elections to Legislative Assemblies, the deployment of Central Paramilitary Forces has been quite considerable. The service in Central Paramilitary Forces offers good prospects as also the challenges and facilities associated with uniformed armed service. The force personnel are also entitled to a number of allowances, like ration money, detachment allowance, special duty allowance high altitude allowance etc.

Street Children

3570. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to news-items captioned 'Street children now get high on Blue, petrol : Study' appearing in the "Times of India" dated, November, 11,1996;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the remedial steps takens by the Government to save these unfortunate children?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The Times of India has not brought out the Delhi Edition of November 11th, 1996.

(b) and (c). A study on Reducing Risk behaviours relating to HIV/AIDS/STD and Drug Abuse amongst street children is being jointly supported by United Nation Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), UNICEF, WHO, UNAIDs, National Aids Control Programme (NACO), Ministry of Health, Overseas Development Agency (ODA) and the Ministry of Welfare. The Study has been conducted in four cities of the country *viz.* Mumbai, Calcutta, Delhi and Hyderabad. The Report has observed that drug abuse is wide spread and increasing amongst street children. Accessible and cheap drugs such as Solvents, Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis are mostly abused by these children.

Based upon the observations and recommendations made in the Study, City Level Workshops have been undertaken in Mumbai (4-5 November, '96), Calcutta (7-9 Nov.'96), Delhi (12-13 Nov'96) and Hyderabad (3-4 December, 1996) The objective of the City Level Workshops is to undertake Pilot Projects for reducing risk taking behaviour related to Drug Abuse/HIV/AIDs/STD amongst Street Children and prepares a City Level Action Plan for this purpose.

Senior Citizens

3571. SMT. BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Support by parents or face panalty, States Chinese Law" Appearing in "Times of India", dated September 1,1996;

(b) the details of the schemes available for elderly person in the country at present;

(c) whether these schemes are considered enough in the present scenario for the elderly persons;

(d) if not, whether there is any move on the part of Government to adopt any methodology for the protection of elderly persons on the lines of Chinese law; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Welfare's Schemes of assistance to Voluntary Organizations for Programmes relating to the welfare of the Aged provides for grant in aid to Non-Governmental Organisations for establishing and maintaining Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres and Mobile Medicare Units for the Elderly.

The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment's National Old Age Pension Scheme provides for a monthly pension of Rs.75/- per month to the eligible persons of the age of 65 years and above.

The Ministry of Railways grants 25% concession in 2nd Class and Sleeper Class Mail/Express fares to the Senior Citizens of the age of 65 years and above.

Indian Airlines provides 50% air discount on fares to the aged persons of the age of 65 years and above under its Senior Citizens Discount Scheme.

(c) The provision of measures for the welfare of different sections of the society including the elderly is an ongoing process based upon the Government's perception of the needs and availability of resources.

(d) and (e). A similar provision already exists in the Code of Criminal Procedure [Section 125 (1) (d)] which makes it incumbent for a person having sufficient means to maintain his father or mother who is unable to maintain himself or herself.

Prices of Drugs

3572. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the prices of formulations based on Mefanamic Acid, Trimipramines, Diosmine, chlorphomazine, Lincomycicon Becampicillin, Framycin and Captopril were fixed;

(b) the present prices thereof and the reasons for not taking any action against the offending companies;

(c) whether the Government have not taken any action on the representations against wrong inclusion of the drugs under the price control; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b). The dates on which prices of the formulations were fixed is given in the Statement. The present prices are also indicated therein. Action has been initiated against the offending companies.

(c) and (d). Representations against inclusion of 19 bulk drugs under prices control were received which covered a wide range of issues and require detailed examination. The final decision is likely to be announced shortly.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of the Formulation/ pack Size	Strength	Initial Price fixed by the Govt. and date	Latest Price fixed by the Govt. with date	Company Prices as per "Drug Today"	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	*Mefanamic Acid*					The matter is subjudice. Price approval orders not issued.
2.	*Trimipramine*					
(i)	Surmontil 10's St.	10Mg Tabs.	5.43 (18.8.92)	5.43 (18.8.92)	5.52	With Curent rate of ED the approved price works out to Rs.5.58. There is no overcharging.
(ii)	Surmontil 10'st.	25mg Tabs.	10.92 (18.8.92)	10.92 (18.8.92)	11.18	With the latest rate of ED the approved price works out to Rs.11.22 hence there is no overcharging.